Shortage of notes of small denomination

†2031. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of notes of small denominations like one rupee, two rupees, five rupees, ten rupees, twenty rupees and fifty rupees in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has discontinued the circulation or stopped the printing of notes of small denominations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to meet the shortage of notes of small denomination in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that in view of the short life span of the lower denomination notes of Rs.1, Rs.2/- and Rs.5/- and the high cost involved in printing and processing of soiled notes of these denomination, the Government has decided to discontinue the printing of lower denomination notes. The notes of these denomination have been coinised. However, due to inadequate production capacity of Government Mints, it was decided to re-introduce Rs.5/- bank note to supplement the Rs.5/- coins. There is no shortage of Rs.10/- Rs.20 bank notes and Rs.50/- in the country.

Activities of Hawala operation

†2032. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that around five hundred companies in the country are fearlessly engaged in Hawala operation;

(b) whether a Mumbai-based fake pharmaceutical company had withdrawn an amount of more than two crores of rupees during the 2008-09 from a nationalized bank using forged documents based on fake reports; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Satyam Computers services has already remitted crores of rupees abroad using Hawala route under the pretext of giving salaries to it's ten thousand employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.